

Application No. 10/031,897
Attorney Docket No. 6517-11-BHJ

In the Claims:

Claim 42 (previously presented): A film forming composition comprising pullulan and a setting system wherein the setting system further comprises cations.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 42, wherein the cations are preferably selected from the group consisting of K⁺, Na⁺, Li⁺, NH₄⁺, Ca⁺⁺ and Mg⁺⁺.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The film forming compositions according to claim 42, wherein the setting system further comprises at least one sequestering agent.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 44, wherein the at least one sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, acetic acid, boric acid, citric acid, edetic acid, gluconic acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, tartaric acid, or salts thereof, methaphosphates, dihydroxyethylglycine, lecithin or beta cyclodextrin.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 42, wherein the setting system comprises hydrocolloids.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 46, wherein the hydrocolloids of the setting system are polysaccharides.

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Claim 48 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 46, wherein the hydrocolloids of the setting system are exocellular polysaccharides.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The film forming composition according to claim 42, wherein the pullulan is 85% to 95% by weight, and the setting system is 0.01% to 5% to 15% by weight.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 42, wherein the amount of cations are less than 5% by weight.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 44, wherein the sequestering agent is less than 5% by weight.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 46, wherein the hydrocolloids of the setting system are selected from the group consisting of alginates, agar gum, guar gum, locust bean gum (carob), carrageenan, tara gum, gum arabic, ghatti gum, Khaya grandifolia gum, tragacanth gum, karaya gum, pectin, arabian (araban), xanthan, gellan, starch, Konjac mannan, galactomannan, or funoran.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 46, wherein the hydrocolloids of the setting system are selected from the group consisting of xanthan, acetan, gellan, welan, rhamsan, furcelleran, succinoglycan, scleroglycan, schizophyllan, tamarind gum, curdlan, or dextran.

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Claim 54 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 46, wherein the hydrocolloids of the setting system are selected from the group consisting of gellan gum or kappa-carrageenan.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 42, further comprising plasticizers or/and flavoring agents.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 42, further comprising colouring agents in a range from about 0% to 10% based upon the weight of the composition.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 56 wherein the colouring agent or mixture of colouring agents is selected from the group consisting of azo-, quinophthalone-, triphenylmethane-, xanthene- or indigoid dyes, iron oxides or hydroxides, titanium dioxide or natural dyes.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The film composition according to claim 57 wherein the colouring agent or mixture of colouring agents is selected from the group consisting of patent blue V, acid brilliant green BS, red 2G, azorubine, ponceau 4R, amaranth, D+C red 33, D+C red 22, D+C red 26, D+C red 28, D+C yellow 10, yellow 2 G, FD+C yellow 5, FD+C yellow 6, FD+C red 3, FD+C red 40, FD+C blue 1, FD+C blue 2, FD+C green 3 or brilliant black BN.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 57 wherein the colouring agent or mixture of colouring agents is selected from

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the group consisting of carbon black, iron oxide black, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, titanium dioxide, riboflavin, carotenes, anthocyanines, turmeric, cochineal extract, chlorophyllin, canthaxanthin, caramel, or betanin.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 42, wherein the composition comprises one or more surfactants.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 60, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulphate (SLS), dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate (DDS), benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, cetrimide (trimethyl-tetradecylammonium bromide), fatty acid sugar esters, glyceryl monooleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyvinyl alcohol, dimethylpolysiloxan, sorbitan esters or lecithin.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 60, wherein the surfactant is 0.01 to 3% by weight relative to the amount of pullulan.

Claim 63 (previously presented): A container for unit dosage forms for agrochemicals, seeds, herbs, foodstuffs, dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals, or flavouring agents produced from the film forming composition according to claim 42.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The container according to claim 63 wherein said container is a capsule.

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Claim 65 (previously presented): The container according to claim 63, wherein the container comprises a coating.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The container according to claim 65, wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate phthalate, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, methacrylic acid gelatines, hypromellose phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose phthalates, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose acetate succinate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The container according to claim 65, wherein the coating is a surfactant.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The container according to claim 67, wherein the coating is in the range of 0.5 to 100 microns.

Claim 69 (previously presented): The container according to claim 67, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulphate (SLS), dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate (DDS), benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, cetrimide (trimethyltetradecylammonium bromide), fatty acid sugar esters, glyceryl monooleate, polyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyvinyl alcohol, dimethylpolysiloxan, sorbitan esters or lecithin.

Claim 70 (previously presented): A caplet encapsulated in a film forming composition according to claim 42.

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Claim 71 (previously presented): A container comprising two halves forming a capsule, wherein the container is sealed with one or more layers of the composition according to claim 1.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The container according to claim 71 wherein the capsule halves are sealed by a liquid fusion process.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The container according to claim 63, wherein a product filled in the container is releasable at a low temperature.

Claim 74 (currently amended): An ~~aqueous~~aqueous solution for the manufacturing of capsules comprising the film forming composition according to claim 42.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The aqueous solution according to claim 74, further comprising pullulan in an amount of from 10 to 60% by weight of the aqueous solution.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The aqueous solution according to claim 74 further comprising at least one setting agent in an amount of 0.01 to 5%, preferably 0.03 to 1.0% by weight of the aqueous solution.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The aqueous solution according to claim 74, further comprising cations in an amount less than 3% by weight of the aqueous solution.

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Claim 78 (previously presented): The aqueous solution according to claim 74, further comprising at least one sequestering agent in an amount less than 3% by weight of the aqueous solution.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 42 wherein the amount of cations are 0.01% to 3% by weight.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 42 wherein the amount of cations are 0.5% to 2% by weight.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 44 wherein the sequestering agent is from 0.01% to 3% by weight.

Claim 82 (previously presented): The film forming composition according to claim 44 wherein the sequestering agent is from 0.5% to 2% by weight.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The container according to claim 63 wherein said container is a pharmaceutical capsule.

Claim 84 (previously presented): The aqueous solution according to claim 74, further comprising pullulan in an amount of from 15 to 40% by weight of the aqueous solution.

Claim 85 (previously presented): The aqueous solution according to claim 74, further comprising cations in an amount from 0.01 to 1% by weight of the aqueous solution.

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Claim 86 (previously presented): The aqueous solution according to claim 74, further comprising at least one sequestering agent in an amount from 0.01 to 1% by weight of the aqueous solution.